



His Majesty's Government of Nepal

Ministry of Education
Keshar Mahal – Kathmandu

Reference: NA\sr.n.ac\1275

Dear Sirs

Following Your kind request we summarize the laws related to the school system in Nepal.

Primary School

Primary education or the first level of education in Nepal comprises five years of schooling. The minimum entry age for this level is 6 years. But it is not a rigid requirement to enter into the primary school. Children who could not attend primary school at the age of 6 can enter into third grade provided they complete a 9-month course of a non-formal primary education programme-- popularly known as OSP (Out-of-School Program). The Basic and Primary Education Project (BPEP) of the Ministry of Education has been promoting this scheme in its forty project districts and is expected to attain nationwide coverage as the project enters into its second phase.

The current five-year primary cycle has been instituted with the rationale that education at this level should provide comprehensive literacy for imparting life-related values and basic skills to children. The current structure of five-year primary education was the same structure during the period 1951 to 1971. Primary education consisted of only three years of schooling during the period between 1971 to 1981--the period when the National Education System Plan (NESP) was implemented in the country. The NESP rationale for making a three-year primary cycle was based on its emphasis on literacy education alone at the primary level and introducing prevocational subjects from grade four onwards and making a lower secondary level comprising grades four to seven. This approach was guided by the NESP's focus on vocationalising overall school education.

Lower secondary school

The second official level of education is the lower secondary level, which comprises grades six to eight (three years). Earlier, from 1951 to 1971, this level was known as middle school and consisted of the sixth and seventh grades. During the NESP implementation period, this level consisted of grades four to seven. As mentioned in the earlier section, the change in the number of years from three to five years has brought corresponding changes in the lower secondary level. According to the recommendation of the National Education Commission, 1992, the lower secondary level of education is to be operated from grades 6 through 8 with the objective of preparing morally and ethically upright citizens possessed of an appropriate level of knowledge in subject matters such as Nepali language, mathematics and science.

Secondary Education

This level of education comprises grades nine and ten. The School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination, which is regarded as an important national level examination conducted centrally, is held at the end of grade ten.

Higher Secondary Education (General)

In 1992, Nepal started the higher secondary education system consisting of grades 11 and 12. The higher secondary level is available in specialized streams such as Science, Commerce, Humanities and Education. In the traditional education system, students would continue their studies at the Proficiency Certificate Level (PCL) in a university after passing the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination. Many university campuses still run the PCL program. According to the



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government plan, this program will eventually be phased out and all the SLC graduates, if they choose to study further, will have to go through the ten-plus-two system of post-secondary education prior to entering university's undergraduate programmes.

Higher Secondary Education (Technical)

The technical education at the higher secondary level is the responsibility of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). Currently, the technical schools affiliated to the CTEVT offer skill training courses either to tenth grade pass students or to those having the Technical School Leaving Certificate. Technical and vocational education is offered through the nine CTEVT constituent trade schools and 118 private technical training institutes. The courses offered are mostly of 2-year duration. The trade schools also offer courses of as short as one year and as long as two and half years. The CTEVT is also planning to offer a two year Certificate in Engineering by incorporating the Proficiency Certificate Level that is in the process of being phased out from the technical institutions of Tribhuvan University. The trade and affiliated technical schools also conduct skill-oriented short-term (2, 4, 6, or 8-week duration) training courses.

University Education

The first level of university education after grade 12 is of three year duration and is called the Bachelor's Degree. The Bachelor's Degree courses in technical institutes like Engineering and Medicine are of four-year duration. The Master's Degree follows the Bachelor's Degree and is of two-year duration. In the technical line, only the Institute of Science and Technology and, in some selected fields, the Institute of Engineering offers Master's level programmes. A university education also includes Ph. D. (Doctor of Philosophy) degree in most of the above disciplines and subject areas.

In order to the organization of the schools, we state:

Public or government-aided and community schools are managed by School Management Committees (SMCs), constituted according to education regulations of the Ministry of Education. The head teachers are normally the Member Secretaries of such committees. The SMC of a school comprises ex-officio and nominated members. The SMC is responsible for the overall functioning of the school. Its main task is to ensure people's participation and mobilize resources for the development of the school. The technical and vocational schools of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) are also managed by their respective SMCs. These SMCs are constituted by CTEVT the members of which are from the local intelligentsia. The SMCs is an autonomous law recognized body which could manage bank accounts, budget and expenditures related to his school under the control of Ministry of Education District Offices.

Sincerely

Ministry of Education
Under Secretary

Nageshwar Amatya

Kathmandu, November 03 2060 B.S.